

Abstract

An arrangement for transporting metallic work pieces (20) comprises a heat-insulated transport chamber (10), means (40) for loading and unloading the work pieces (20), and transporting gear (30). To enable the flexible and efficient transport of the work pieces among a number of treatment chambers in an arrangement of this type during a heat treatment process, the transport chamber (10) is designed to be vacuum-tight, such that it can be evacuated of air to create a vacuum that will protect the work pieces (20) from environmental influences.

In addition, a system for heat treating metallic work pieces (20), comprising at least two treatment chambers (50) in which the work pieces (20) can be heat treated, is characterized in that an arrangement of this type can be coupled to the treatment chamber (50) via a transfer canal (60) that can be evacuated.

Furthermore, in a method for transporting metallic work pieces (20) during a heat treatment process, a vacuum-tight transport chamber (10) is evacuated to create a vacuum that will protect the work pieces (20) from environmental influences, for the purpose of transporting the work pieces (20) within this vacuum from one treatment chamber (50) to the next.

(Fig. 1a)

R/SC/li

10056578-012502